

A POLISH IMMIGRANT'S STORY by MIKE KANE
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The United States is full of immigrants. I would imagine that each one has their own story of why they came to the United State. I thought the best and most interesting way to learn about immigrants would be to interview someone who came from another country. A friend of mine comes from a Polish background. Her mother was straight from Poland. As a young adult the lady decided that she would come to America and start a new life here. I asked her some questions to learn about her life before and her life after going to America. Now she is in her fifties and has been in America for about thirty years. She loves it here, and she really thinks she made the best decision by coming here to start a career and family.

When she was about twenty she found a love for fashion. She wanted to find a career in fashion design. In Poland this was not a big career opportunity, and she was not able to find a job. Her aunt was already living in the Americas and asked her to come live with her all the time. Her aunt lived in western MA. She told her that she was close to New York City and that there would be plenty of job openings for her in fashion design. After looking into the fashion industry in New York, all she wanted to do was find the "American Dream". She thought that America really would hold many more opportunities for her.

When she came to America she had a very hard time adapting to the culture. She did not know any English. She tried to teach herself with books because she did not have a car, and did not have the money for classes. She moved in with her aunt. In Poland she could walk anywhere she wanted to go. When she got to Western MA she realized she was going to have to learn how to drive a car. She went to get her license, but without knowing the language this was a very hard struggle for her. After learning the language and learning to drive she was able to move forward with her career. She still loved fashion and found a career in this field. She worked with designing clothes.

Eventually she moved out of her aunt's and got married and had three kids. She taught her kids both Polish and English. She thought it was important to keep the language in her family. Also many of the relatives spoke Polish, so she wanted her kids to be able to speak to them. She worked hard to get where she is now. Things did not just come easy to her once she

got to America. She believes that family is the most important thing in her life. She believes that her culture sees family as a big part of life. She also tries to tell her children that they need to adapt to their surroundings. She reminds them that things aren't always going to be easy but you cannot give up.

She came here with nothing, and now she has her own business of tailoring clothing. She never let her dreams go. She tried so hard to go from one country to another. She still goes back to Poland every few years to see people she knows. She still speaks the language and keeps her culture a part of her life and a part of her children's lives. She says that she does not ever regret leaving Poland for America.

America brings opportunities to people. Just as the woman I interviewed discovered I'm sure many other immigrants did too. She had to struggle when she first got her, but she knew that it was worth it. If an immigrant comes to America and does not try to adapt then they are going to fail, but if they do not give up then there will be a place for them to try to reach that "American Dream."

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